

ABSTRACT

5 A circularly polarizing plate includes a $\lambda/4$ phase difference plate (1) and a linearly polarizing plate (2) overlaid on a main surface of the $\lambda/4$ phase difference plate (1) and having an absorption axis forming an angle of about 45° with respect to a lagging axis of the $\lambda/4$ phase difference plate (1). The $\lambda/4$ phase difference plate (1) has reverse wavelength dispersion characteristics and an Nz coefficient of 1.6 or more. Alternatively, the circularly polarizing plate includes a $\lambda/4$ phase difference plate having reverse wavelength dispersion characteristics and an Nz coefficient of 1.6 or more, and a linearly polarizing plate overlaid on a main surface of the $\lambda/4$ phase difference plate. 10 The $\lambda/4$ phase difference plate has the lagging axis forming an angle of about $+90^\circ$ with respect to a reference direction defined by one side of a rectangle which is a plane form, and the linearly polarizing plate has the absorption axis forming an angle of about $+45^\circ$ with respect to the reference direction. Employment of this structure can provide the circularly polarizing plate having good view angle characteristics and a vertical 15 alignment type of liquid crystal display panel having the same.